

October 1961.

Salme KURGVEL, née EPLER

Born 12 Jan 1909, in NARVA, Estonia.

Graduated from the Coeducational Gymnasium in Narva (high school and junior college), and continued the studies for a teacher's degree in Estonian at the University of TARTU, Estonia. She discontinued the studies when forced to leave Tartu when she married.

Lived in Estonia until 1940 when the family fled the country after the communists took the reign and threatened the life of the family head, an officer of the Estonian Army. The family escaped to Germany.

Returned to Estonia in 1942, joining there her husband who was allowed by the German military authorities to return there in 1941.

Had to leave Estonia again in 1944 when the communist re-occupied the country. Went with the children to Germany, the husband remaining with the German Army.

Emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1951, together with one son, the older son already being in the U.S.A. and the husband remaining back in Germany, employed by the U.S. Government.

Employment and Professional Training:

In 1944, during a few months before leaving the country -

Shipping and Airlines-Booking Office GAHLENBECK, in Tallinn, - taking reservations and selling tickets. Languages used: German and Estonian.

In Germany, in UNRA and IRO camps:

Courses in Bookkeeping (83 hours) in 1946/47.

IRO Assistant Nurses' courses in 1946, and Practical Nurses' Courses in 1949. Additional private instruction taken in Swedish massage.

Typist's courses (10 finger system) taken in Berlin in 1941.

1946-1948 worked as acting practical nurse in IRO camps of Displaced Persons.

1949-1951 worked as acting ward nurse in the German-administrated IRO hospital at Wentorf U.S. Emigration Processing Center.

1952-1954 worked as practical nurse in New York, the Holy Family Hospital.

1954-1956 worked as file clerk in New York, Globe & Rutgers Ins. Co.

Since 1956, to date, works in New York with the First National City Bank of New York, in the Vault (Securities) Department, now in the Trust Collection Department.

Knows adding machines, calculators. Does not fear machines. Does not like key punching. Likes: checking, mathematical processes, systematization. Feels that her English is not good enough for editing of letters.

When with the Globe & Rutgers, she was in charge of the filing of the "Foreign Companies" materials and of those for 3 to 4 American "territories". She has the reputation of a hard worker. She has never been fired.

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Knowledge of foreign languages:

Mother tongue - Estonian, fluent.

German, fluent (during the stay in the U.S.A. in constant reading practice).

Russian, satisfactory (regress from fluent, due to lack of practice).

Foreign travels:

Before 1939, from Estonia: to Finland with a tourist group.

To Germany, Switzerland, France and Belgium, a vacation trip together with the husband.

After 1945, in Germany: to different places in connection with the care for the Estonians held in P.O.W. Camps, and later in connection with her activities as a leading Estonian Girl-Scout.

After 1951, from the U.S.A.: Short trips to Canada, together with the family, and also with the Estonian Girl-Scouts (of America).

A four-week trip to Europe, alone to Germany, Sweden, England, and together with the daughter-in-law from Germany to Paris.

General characterization: Earnest, honest, conscientious, understanding. Youthful, well liked by the girls although demanding (in Girl-Scouting). Hard, silent worker, does not need constant supervision, able to work independently once advised. Knows to keep secrets.

Hobbies: Girl-Scouting. Has been in leading positions in Estonian Girl-Scouts (Guides) organizations in Estonia, in Germany, and in the U.S.A. Reading, especially biographical memories. Hiking.

Present remunerations:

Salary	\$ 4,082 per year.
Profit sharing (7-10% of the salary), approx. "	400 " "
Pension Fund, 6% of the salary paid additionally (nothing is being detained from the salary)	245 " "
Free Life and Health-insurance, approx.	300 " "
Other fringe benefits, like free checking account operations and reduced price lunches, approx.	100 " "
Total, approximately, \$ 5,100 per year	

Next raise due:

expected according to the precedents:	\$ 234 " "
resulting increase in Profit Sharing "	23 " "
Total: \$ 257 per year.	